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Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in Afghanistan

Promotion and protection of human rights

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Identical letters dated 19 September 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Dushanbe Declaration of the Heads of member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which was adopted by the Presidents of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in Dushanbe on 28 August 2008 (see annex).

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We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12, 17, 64 and 85, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
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People's Republic of China to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Byrganym **Aitimova**
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Nurbek **Jeenbaev**
Permanent Representative of the
Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 September 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian and Chinese]

Dushanbe Declaration of the Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as "SCO" or "the Organization", having gathered in Dushanbe at the meeting of the Council of Heads of State and having discussed international issues and the situation in the region, hereby declare the following:

1. In the twenty-first century, the interdependence of States has increased dramatically while security and development are becoming inseparable. None of today's international problems can be resolved by force and the role of force as a factor in global and regional policy is objectively seen to be decreasing.

Exclusive reliance on the use of force has no future and hinders the comprehensive settlement of local conflicts. A comprehensive resolution of existing problems is possible only by fully taking into account the interests of all parties and by including them in the negotiating process, not by isolating them. Attempts to strengthen one's own security at the expense of the security of others do not contribute to the maintenance of global security and stability.

The participants of the Dushanbe meeting underline the need to respect the historical and cultural traditions of every country and every people and to respect efforts aimed at preserving the unity of the State and its territorial integrity, in accordance with international law, as well as efforts to promote good-neighbourly relations among peoples and their common development.

2. The search for effective responses to common global challenges and threats must be carried out in strict compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the universally accepted rules of international law by uniting the efforts of all countries and overcoming confrontational thinking, bloc politics and unipolarity using the potential of multilateral diplomacy.

The States members of SCO believe that, under the present circumstances, international security must be based on the principles of reciprocal trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation. The establishment of a global missile defence system is not conducive to the maintenance of a strategic balance or to international arms control efforts, nor is it conducive to nuclear non-proliferation, the strengthening of trust between States or regional stability.

3. The States members of SCO express their deep concern regarding the recent tension over the South Ossetian issue and call on the relevant parties to resolve the existing problems peacefully through dialogue and to work towards reconciliation and the facilitation of negotiations.

The States members of SCO welcome the approval on 12 August 2008 in Moscow of the six principles to resolve the conflict in South Ossetia and support the

active role of the Russian Federation in promoting peace and cooperation in this region.

4. The States members of SCO reaffirm their commitment to preventive diplomacy as an important means of effectively addressing security and development problems, and to strengthening the key role of the United Nations in the field of crisis prevention.

The States members of SCO consider that the legitimate framework for conflict prevention is provided by the Charter of the United Nations, the resolutions of the Security Council and the rules of international law, and that the United Nations Security Council, which is entrusted with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, plays a decisive role in this field.

Noting the increasingly active role and growing potential of regional organizations in the field of preventive diplomacy, the States members of SCO support comprehensive development and enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional bodies, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. The States members of the Organization are in favour of broad international cooperation in order to provide the resources needed by humanity to meet global development goals without damaging the environment, including bridging the technological gap between countries and eradicating poverty by providing all States equal access to the benefits of globalization.

Against the backdrop of a slowdown in the growth of the world economy, it is particularly important to pursue a responsible currency and financial policy, to control capital flows and to ensure food and energy security.

6. The States members of SCO express satisfaction at the increased degree of coordination in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism within the Organization and intend to raise security cooperation among member States to a qualitatively new level using the capabilities of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.

The States members of SCO reaffirm their commitment to strengthening the central coordinating role of the United Nations in organizing an international response to the terrorist threat; to the consistent implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; and to the achievement of a final agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as soon as possible.

The States members of SCO are fully determined to counter attempts to spread terrorist ideology and stand ready to work together closely for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) and for the promotion of an intercivilizational and intercultural dialogue. It is also important to build on the capacities of civil society, the business community, the mass media and non-governmental organizations.

7. The Heads of State stress the importance of the adoption at the sixty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly of resolution 62/17, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", and express their readiness to provide their joint assistance in the implementation of its recommendations.

The Heads of State note the effective work carried out within the framework of SCO to establish the international legal framework and practical mechanisms of cooperation aimed at ensuring international information security.

8. The Heads of State call for increased cooperation between SCO and the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the basis of signed memorandums of understanding.

9. The Heads of State stress the importance of promoting a dialogue between States members of the Organization on the effective and sustainable use of water and energy resources, taking into account the interests of the parties.

Combined efforts to establish close cooperation for the industrial development of new energy technologies will be of particular importance, including in the context of combating global climate change. In this connection, greater emphasis will be placed on the development by States members of SCO of common approaches designed to overcome the negative impact of climate change and to promote clean energy.

10. The States members of SCO, reaffirming their commitment to the fundamental instruments and standards for the protection and promotion of human rights, shall:

- promote the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and safeguard the rights of national minorities, in accordance with their international obligations and national legislation;
- share experience on the implementation of international human rights treaties;
- implement existing agreements within the framework of multilateral and bilateral humanitarian treaties;
- intensify consultations and cooperation within the United Nations on human rights issues; and
- support the engagement of SCO with other regional organizations and integration associations on issues related to humanitarian cooperation and the promotion of human rights.

11. The States members of SCO note that the geopolitical and economic significance of Central Asia is increasing. The dynamic development of the Organization will contribute to reinforcing strategic stability, maintaining peace and security, and establishing multifaceted economic and humanitarian cooperation in the region.

12. External challenges and threats to security are factors that complicate the situation in the region. The development of the situation in Afghanistan and the expansion in the scale of drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime require the strengthening of coordination, including through the creation of joint mechanisms to assess, prevent and respond to such challenges and threats.

The Heads of State believe that it is important for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operating in Afghanistan under the mandate of the United Nations Security Council to pay greater attention to the task of countering

the production and smuggling of Afghan narcotics, in cooperation with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and neighbouring and other interested countries. They propose that this task should be reflected in the mandate of ISAF during the next consideration of the situation in Afghanistan by the United Nations Security Council.

The States members of SCO shall continue their joint efforts to establish close cooperation with other interested countries and international regional organizations with a view to creating a broad partnership network to counter terrorist and narcotic threats.

The Heads of State underline the need, as part of Afghanistan-related efforts, to enhance the work of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group and to begin practical preparations for the convening of a special conference on Afghanistan, under the aegis of SCO, to discuss collective action against terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime.

13. The Heads of State believe that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia is an important step aimed at strengthening the regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In this connection, they consider that the Semipalatinsk Treaty of 2006 will contribute to strengthening peace and security in the region and to combating international nuclear terrorism by preventing nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-State actors.

14. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is open to constructive dialogue with all international and regional organizations that share the purposes and principles of SCO and are guided in their activities by the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. On that basis, SCO stands ready to consider the possibility of establishing cooperation with other international organizations with the aim of ensuring the stable, secure and harmonious development of the region, while taking into account the interests of the States members of SCO to the fullest extent possible.

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

President of the People's Republic of China

President of the Kyrgyz Republic

President of the Russian Federation

President of the Republic of Tajikistan

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Dushanbe, 28 August 2008